

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/748,431

Examiner

Tony Mahmoudi

Applicant(s)

SMITH ET AL.

Art Unit

2165

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the After-Final Amendment filed on 02-June-2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7, 9, 14-20, 26-28 and 30-38, re-numbered as claims 1-27.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

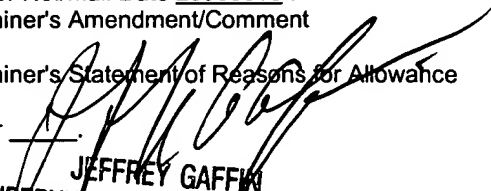
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 20060613.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


JEFFREY GAFFIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

DETAILED ACTION

Remarks

1. In view of the After-Final amendment filed on 02-June-2006, claims 1-7, 9, 14-20, 26-28 and 30-38 are pending in the application, of which claims 1, 14, 16, 26, 30-32 and 38 are presented in independent form.
2. In view of the examiner's amendment, authorized by the Attorney of Record, claim 30 is further amended by the examiner (details provided below.)

Examiner's Amendment

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. John C. Pokotylo (Attorney of Record) on 12-June-2006 (see enclosed Interview Summary, paper No. 20060613.)

Claim 30 has been amended by the examiner as follows:

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable medium consisting of one or more memory devices and/or storage devices storing ~~containing~~ one or more instructions for providing search results in response to an ambiguous search query, the ambiguous search query including a sequence of ambiguous information components, the instructions comprising:

receiving a sequence of ambiguous information components from a user;

obtaining mapping information that maps the ambiguous information components to less ambiguous information components;

using the mapping information, in combination with a lexicon, to convert translate the sequence of ambiguous information components into at least two corresponding sequences of less ambiguous information components, wherein the lexicon is a list of sequences of less ambiguous information components that previously have been processed by a search engine as search queries;

providing the at least two sequences of less ambiguous information, each of the sequences effectively being joined by a logical “OR” operation request, as an input to the a search engine;

obtaining search results from the search engine; and

presenting the search results to the user.

Allowance

4. Claims 1-7, 9, 14-20, 26-28 and 30-38 are allowed over the prior art made of record.

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Conclusion

5. Any inquiries concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tony Mahmoudi whose telephone number is (571) 272-4078. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Fridays from 08:00 am to 04:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Gaffin, can be reached at (571) 272-4146.

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June 13, 2006